

Dr. Locke then sought to shape the path of curriculum and instructional development at the state level. As Assistant Superintendent for the Tehama County Department of Education, Dr. Locke represented a nine-county region on the State Curriculum and Instruction Committee, where he served an unprecedented two terms as Chairman of the County/State Steering Committee. Prior to assuming the position of County Schools Superintendent in 1991, Dr. Locke served 14 years as Associate Superintendent, during which time he became a key co-founder of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition. This Coalition strives to maintain a rational school funding system for those California counties that are timber rich and property tax poor.

It should be noted that throughout his tenure at the Tehama County Office of Education, Dr. Locke was active in many statewide education associations, such as the California Education Research Association, and the Association of California School Administrators, where he served as Chapter President and Region 1 board member. Additionally, he was named 1998 County Superintendent of the Year by the California County Superintendents Education Services Association. Finally, Dr. Locke has received the Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Gamma Mu awards in honor of his contributions to Scholastic and Social Science research.

I am honored to recognize an individual who has committed his life to excellence in a field that is critical to the success of our nation's children. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Marvin Elliott Locke for a lifetime of hard work and a job well done.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, within the next month, we will take up the annual debate on extending normalized trade relations to the People's Republic of China (PRC). In light of this fact, I wanted to bring to the attention of the nation some of the efforts undertaken by the Republic of China (Taiwan) to have a positive influence on her neighbor across the Taiwan Strait.

Dr. Koo Chen-fu of the Straits Exchange Foundation, a Taiwanese organization devoted to conducting cross-strait relations, spoke recently before the annual meeting of the International Press Institute World Congress and 48th General Assembly. Dr. Koo's comments about fostering productive dialog between his nation and the PRC were very informative, and I insert them in the RECORD in order that they might be of benefit to all of my colleagues in this body.

ESTABLISHING PEACEFUL AND STABLE RELATIONS ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT

(By Dr. Koo Chen-fu)

Honorable Public Opinion Leaders from Both at Home and Abroad, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I feel greatly honored to be invited to participate in the annual conference of the

International Press Institute held in the Republic of China. This year marks the first occasion that the IPI has held an annual conference of such magnitude in Taipei. Your meeting here is an affirmative of and encouragement by the IPI for the ROC government's efforts in promoting freedom of press over the past two decades and for the entire press of our nation, which has worked diligently to pursue the consistent advancement of the news industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a major issue that is currently confronting our general public: the problem of having too much information, rather than too little. I believe all of the people responsible for Taiwan's media and communication sectors present today are proud to have contributed to this hard-to-achieve status.

On my way to the conference, I was wondering why the prestigious sponsors of the conference invited me to deliver a speech on this occasion. Knowing that a host of prominent personages from all sectors around the world are participating in this grand event, I felt every more apprehensive, until I thought of a privilege I have over all of you: seniority. I am 82 years old and in a society, such as ours, that attaches great respect to elderly people, my age, I suspect, was my ticket to attend this magnificent conference.

The topic I will speak to you about today is unquestionably quite serious, but it is the subject specifically requested by the sponsoring unit of this conference. I promise that I will do my best to be concise and clear about a complex matter.

As you all know, the Republic of China was founded by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1912, after the overthrow of the Ching imperial dynasty. Then in 1949, the People's Republic of China was established with Chairman Mao Tz Tung as its leader. Thereafter, China has been ruled separately, with the Chinese communists exercising jurisdiction on the mainland; while ROC government exercising jurisdiction in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, and Matsu. China has not been united for the past half century, and our situation resembles that of North and South Korea. This is a very simple political reality, known and accepted around the world.

Beijing's claim that "there is only one China and Taiwan is part of China, and one China means the People's Republic of China," or "Taiwan is a renegade province of PRC" not only deviates from reality, but completely negate the truth. It is my view that China is now divided, and both Taiwan and the mainland are parts of China and the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are ruled by two distinct political entities, with neither subordinate to the other. What is important is that both sides do not exclude the possibility of future unification of China through the process of peace and democracy, when time and conditions are mature.

At the current stage of development of cross-strait relations, the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), under the authorization of the government, has from the very beginning, stressed several key points. We have insisted on conditions that respect historic facts and the status quo, safeguard the well-being of the people of Taiwan, and normalize cross-strait relations. For humanitarian reasons, the ROC government in 1987 began to allow our people to visit relatives on the mainland and worked effectively to increase mutual understanding and exchanges between the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

Then, again in 1991, we terminated the Period of National Mobilization for Suppres-

sion of the Communist Rebellion, clearly manifesting our government's sincerity not to resolve cross-strait problems by force. It was a pragmatic move, as our government took the first step and demonstrated our goodwill to acknowledge the existence of the communist authorities. To help raise the living standards on the Chinese mainland and develop its economy, Taiwan's business sector has invested as much as US\$25 billion across the strait over the last ten plus years, creating a great number of job opportunities for the people on the mainland and contributing remarkably to the expeditious accumulation of foreign exchange reserves for the Chinese mainland over the recent years.

In order to show the sincerity of the ROC government in promoting peaceful and stable cross-strait relations, President Lee Teng-hui made a six-point proposal on normalizing cross-strait relations in April 1995. These points are: 1. use Chinese culture as a base to strengthen exchanges between the two sides; 2. enhance economic ties and develop reciprocal and complementary cross-strait relations; 3. participate in international organizations on an equal-footing, thus allowing meetings of leaders from the two sides in appropriate situations; 4. assert peaceful solutions for any disputes which arise; 5. combine the efforts of both sides to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong and Macau and enhance democracy in these two areas; 6. pursue future national unification while respecting that China is currently divided and ruled by different political entities.

President Lee's understanding and perspective have provided direction to SEF's tasks. We hope to establish a peaceful and stable cross-strait relationship step by step, as follows:

First of all, we have made all necessary preparations for the coming of Mr. Wang Dao han, the senior chairman of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS). I address him as "senior" because he is eighty-three years old, and I'm a year younger than he is. I am expecting Mr. Wang's visit as one which will renew the channel of constructive discourse we first established during my trip to mainland last October. The SEF will make arrangements for Mr. Wang's "getting to know Taiwan" trip safe and comfortable, so the mainland's leading persons will have a better understanding and knowledge of Taiwan. And, for the above mentioned reasons, I look forward to the Taipei meeting with Mr. Wang, which will be held this autumn, so we can work together to frame a peaceful and mutually beneficial relationship for both sides of the strait.

In addition, we will try to persuade the Beijing authorities to reopen the institutionalized consultations established during the Singapore round of the Koo-Wang talks in April 1993. Regarding substantive issues, which most concern the rights of the people, such as repatriating mainland stowaways and hijackers, solving fishing disputes, and dealing with illegal activities cooperatively, we hope that interim agreements will be signed as soon as possible. These agreements will form a basis from which to expand step by step the content gained from future consultations or important issues concerning both sides.

I am well aware that there are people on the Beijing side who anxiously promote political negotiations and dialogue between the two sides. In fact, just as in the Shanghai meeting last October, I would like to broaden the range of subjects during the talk with

Mr. Wang in the upcoming Taipei meeting on whatever issues are of concern. If the meeting is restricted only to talks about issues in a particular area, it will minimize the effect of the agreement we may make. This will not be beneficial for improving relations between the two sides.

The 1993 Singapore agreement was the first agreement which was officially authorized for signature by both governments and was approved by respective elected bodies after separation on each side of the strait. If either of the two parties was not willing to abide by the agreement, then the confidence level for the signing of future agreements will certainly be negatively affected. Over time, we will attain more agreements concerning the people's rights and interest. Thus, we can build mutual confidence through the accumulation of interim agreements. This method gives us the ground work for a solid foundations for peaceful and stable cross-strait relations.

Third, the two sides should gradually develop a confidence building measure (CBM), in order to insure the peace of the Taiwan Strait and the security of the Asia-Pacific region. Beginning in 1991, the two sides set up the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, respectively, to be the institutionalized communication mechanism between the two sides. This is the accepted communication channel under the informalized relation between the two sides.

For years, these two organizations have exchanged phone calls and letters to conduct necessary contacts and communication. In 1996, however, the Chinese mainland unexpectedly launched a military threat against Taiwan and unilaterally suspended the functions of the two organizations for more than three years. It is a situation we deeply regret.

Under the influence of democracy and freedom, Taiwan is becoming increasingly liberalized and advanced. Such an environment has exerted a direct impact on the SEF to be more flexible and open, when holding consultations with ARATS. Let me assure you that the ROC government is fully confident and sincere in resolving any political differences between the two sides via consultations. Even so, we will not hold talks with the Chinese mainland under such unfriendly conditions as political inequality, diplomatic interference, and military threat. National security and dignity are what I myself and the SEF personnel constantly must bear in mind, when we exchange contacts with the Chinese mainland. I believe that these two criterias are also the two foremost concerns of the people of Taiwan.

In recent years, I have observed that Beijing has been withdrawing from the position that "we can talk about anything" toward a parochial mentality that "we can only talk about political issues." This confuses us.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on Beijing to return to the consultation table as soon as possible, to establish mutual trust between the two sides through consultations, and to adopt necessary and positive measures to insure the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait.

Fourth, the two sides should expand items and the scope of exchanges and cooperations and treat each other with sincerity through reciprocity, in order to ultimately normalize bilateral relations. During the past 50 years, the two sides have accumulated individual experiences of development that can be exchanged to assist each other. In the past, we have proposed that the two sides conduct ex-

changes and cooperate in the areas of agriculture, scientific technology, economic development, and rule by law. We have also suggested the two sides deal with the Asian financial crisis together, in order to jointly contribute to the prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Unfortunately, we have not had any positive response from Beijing, to date. In the future, we will continue to encourage and persuade the Chinese mainland to pragmatically respond to our constructive proposals. We will also unfold various cooperation plans with Beijing to increase mutual trust, achieve consensus, and ultimately attain the goal of establishing normalized relations between the two sides.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the past four decades, the ROC has managed to create miracles in economic development and political democratization, under unfavorable natural environments and conditions. Naturally, we wish to achieve more, and it is our hope that we can bridge the gap of the Taiwan Strait in economic and political developments by appropriate interaction and constructive dialogue between the both sides of the Taiwan Strait. This will help us to realize the natural reunification of both sides in a peaceful and democratic way.

At the threshold of the twenty-first century, with the Cold War era ended, I sincerely hope that the Chinese mainland will discard the remnants of the Cold War "zero-sum" thinking and expand their horizons to join us in building a peaceful and stable relationship for both sides of the Taiwan Strait, under conditions which respect the political status quo of both sides.

As time is pressing, let me finish my speech here. Thank you very much. And I wish all the distinguished participants of this conference health and confirmed success.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER ESTELLA IBARRA OF TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Estella Ibarra of Toledo, Ohio, who is being honored this evening in a special tribute for her work in our community. Since her 1988 arrival in Toledo, Sr. Estella has tended to the housing, employment, and educational needs of South Toledo residents, while ministering to their spiritual needs as well.

After coming to Toledo to establish Marianist Social Ministries, Sr. Estella witnessed the critical housing situation facing many of her clients and it spurred her on to action. While working as Hispanic Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Toledo, she proposed and initiated CHIP: the Charities' Homeowners Initiatives Program. Since 1992, CHIP has provided close to thirty low-moderate income families with financial counseling, legal assistance, training in budgeting, home management, and retirement planning in preparation for buying a home. Starting in the city of Toledo, Sr. Estella is replicating the program in seventeen other communities in the Toledo Catholic Diocese.

To aid families in housing crises, Sr. Estella founded La Posada, a temporary shelter for

homeless families. The shelter, named to honor the Mexican Christmas tradition in which families walked through the village by candlelight reenacting the Holy Family's search for shelter on the night of Jesus' birth, allows families in need to stay up to ninety days while re-establishing a foothold. Sr. Estella founded La Posada in 1991 through the combined efforts of herself and five churches in Toledo's Old South End: SS Peter & Paul, Immaculate Conception, St. John's Lutheran, First English Lutheran, and Peace Lutheran. Serving largely Hispanic families in need, La Posada provides help to about 120 people each year, most of whom are migrant workers, recent immigrants, and refugees, as they strive toward self-sufficiency.

Sr. Estella also works closely with Toledo Central City Neighborhoods Development Corp (TCCN), which is sponsored by ten Catholic churches and rehabilitates and builds affordable homes in Toledo's central city neighborhood. She began service on TCCN's Board in 1994, and even served briefly as the organization's interim director in 1996.

Sometimes referred to as the "Mother Teresa of Toledo," Sister Estella has helped hundreds of Toledo's "poorest of the poor." In a time when many in our government and across our nation have abdicated our responsibilities toward one other, Sr. Estella has chosen instead to follow Christ's teaching; "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." She is a quiet and humble example of how we might live as true followers of Christ, and how we might seek to truly impact the life direction of people. Sr. Estella Ibarra is ensuring that our future will not only be different but better because she has been here. I join our community in honoring her achievements and thanking her in the most heartfelt way for the positive changes she has brought to people in need.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. RICHARD SKINNER

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Skinner and his contributions to Clayton College and State University, to the Clayton County community, and to the State of Georgia. For over 5 years, Dr. Skinner skillfully guided Clayton College to the forefront of higher education in the information age.

Dr. Skinner developed and implemented a ground-breaking program providing every student and professor at Clayton College with a personal notebook computer. This launched the school into a new era, setting a higher standard for education not only in Georgia, but in the Nation as a whole. Dr. Skinner also led the steering committee responsible for implementing the Georgia Learning Library Online, the most advanced statewide World Wide Web-based library in the country.